GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:834
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2000
DEFENCE AGREEMENTS
RASA SINGH RAWAT

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian defence agreements and defence deals, country-wise as on date;

(b) the plan formulated by the Government to make India self-reliant in defence equipments and modernise the three wings of the Indian forces by providing them latest defence/war techniques;

(c) the shortcomings of defence forces which the Government have noticed after Kargil war; and

(d) the responsibilities and duties of the National Security Council identified in this scenario?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) The Government has entered into various Agreements, Protocols, Memoranda of Understanding etc.in the field of defence cooperation with various friendly foreign countries. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose the details.

(b) The strengthening of country's Defence is a continuous process. The requirements of our Armed Forces are reviewed on a continuing basis for induction of modernised weapons and weapon systems, keeping in view the threat perceptions and the prevailing strategic security environment as also emerging technologies. Simultaneously, Government is also pursuing measures to strengthen indigenous production facilities with the objective of self-reliance in production of defence equipment and spares.

(c) The Kargil Review Committee has identified a number of areas that need to be strengthened. These include acquisition of
(a) high altitude UAVs

(b) communication interception equipment,
(c)satellite imagery capability of world standards and

(d) development of skills in encryption/ decryption, for strengthening surveillance system. The Government has already accepted these recommendations `in principle'.

(d) The National Security Council is tasked to advise the Government on external security environment and threat scenario; security threats involving atomic energy, space and high technology; trends in the world economy and economic security threats in the areas of energy, foreign trade, food, finance and ecology; internal security, including counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence; patterns of alienation emerging in the country, especially those with a social, communical or regional dimension; security threats posed by trans-border crimes, such as smuggling and traffic in arms, drugs and narcotics; and coordination in intelligence collection and tasking of intelligence agencies so as to ensure that intelligence is focussed on areas of concern for the nation.